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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

650 2639

May 17, 1954

S/[illegible]

TO: S - The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: ARA - Mr. Holland

SUBJECT: Conference with Ambassador Muniz of Brazil

You may be interested in the attached memorandum (TAB A) of my conference with Ambassador Muniz of Brazil when I presented to him the documents which he is to take to Rio.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

DATE: May 15, 1954

Files

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador João Carlos Muniz of Brazil
Mr. Holland, ARA

COPIES TO: S - The Secretary
G - Mr. Murphy

Returned to 714.00/5-1554

GPO 1—1408

I presented to Ambassador Muniz the brief of evidence regarding the degree of Communist penetration in Guatemala and an excerpt from my memorandum to the Secretary recommending that the Organ of Consultation be invoked to consider the Guatemalan problem.

After lunch the Ambassador read this latter document and thereupon made the following comments:

Of the three courses of action mentioned in the document, i.e. inactivity, intervention and invocation of the Organ of Consultation, the last is clearly the best road.

Throughout Latin America there is apathy on the Communist problem and an unwillingness to face up to unpleasant measures to combat it.

Western civilization is in a state of moral decline. The United States is the only nation in the world with the courage and willingness to sacrifice that are needed to defeat Communism.

Frequently things must get very bad before they can improve. Perhaps this is the low ebb of moral standards that must be reached before nations will fight for their conviction. It is time that the Organization of American States demonstrates that it is an instrument capable of meeting and solving problems.

He is

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He is not at all sure that he can guarantee the support of his own Government. However, he feels that this is a good time to approach his Government, because he has been sending it reports emphasizing what he considers to be a decision on the part of the United States Government to revive the particularly close relationships that it sustained with Brazil during the war.

Nor is he sure that we will be successful in carrying the whole hemisphere; however, he feels that the issue and the time justify our making the effort. As for his own Government, he will do his best to procure a favorable decision.

He agreed with some enthusiasm to my suggestion that if we were successful in obtaining a favorable vote at the OAS meeting it would greatly strengthen the OAS as a hemispheric device and as a force in the world fight against Communism.

SLC GT

Att:Mr.Holland:dwm